

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 (cancelled).

Claim 30 (previously presented). An isolated oligopeptide consisting of 12 amino acid residues and having an amino acid residue sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, and SEQ ID NO: 13.

Claim 31 (currently amended). A fusion protein comprising a polypeptide covalently linked to an oligopeptide of claim 30; wherein the fusion protein is not a natural hepatitis B virus surface protein.

Claim 32 (previously presented). The fusion protein of claim 31 wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a structural polypeptide, a tumor necrosis factor, an interferon, an interleukin, a lymphokine, a growth factor, and a plasma protein.

Claim 33 (previously presented). The fusion protein of claim 31 wherein the polypeptide is a cytokine.

Claim 34 (previously presented). The fusion protein of claim 31 wherein the polypeptide is a co-stimulatory molecule.

Claim 35 (previously presented). The fusion protein of claim 31 wherein the polypeptide is a tumor-associated antigen.

Claim 36 (previously presented). The fusion protein of claim 31 wherein the polypeptide is a peptide fragment of a viral coat.

Claim 37 (previously presented). The fusion protein of claim 31 wherein the polypeptide is a hormone.

Claim 38 (previously presented). The fusion protein of claim 31 wherein the polypeptide is a ribozyme.

Claim 39 (previously presented). An isolated variant of the peptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, the variant consisting of 12 amino acid residues and having an amino acid residue sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

Claim 40 (previously presented). An isolated oligopeptide fragment of an avian hepadnavirus, the oligopeptide consisting of 12 amino acid residues and having an amino acid

residue sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, and SEQ ID NO: 11.

Claim 41 (previously presented). An isolated oligopeptide fragment of a rodent hepadnavirus, the oligopeptide consisting of 12 amino acid residues and having an amino acid residue sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.